

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board  
From: Nancy Selman  
Date: October 6, 2004  
Re: Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2004

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. For 2004: 10/12, 11/9, 12/14

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

- 1) Minutes and Update
  - a) Minutes - The July 2004 meeting minutes were accepted without changes.
- 2) Update-
  - a) Plasma waste conversion/fuel cell project – the following concerns were expressed regarding this proposed project, which is in early developmental stages:
    - (1) The legislation which created the Fund does not specifically define solid waste as a renewable resource;
    - (2) It is difficult to tell from the project description which is not specific in this area, but it seems as though the net energy output (net of the energy consumption to power the plasma arc process) might be very low.However, it was also noted that the project appears to convert solid waste in a more sustainable manner, using a renewable resource to power the conversion process. The developer will be informed regarding the objections of the Board to the project.
- 2) Smartpower – Brian Keane from Smartpower made a presentation on the public education program conducted by Smartpower to date in 2004 and the success of the GreenUp program in RI. The results of an “after” poll were also presented. Smartpower is requesting \$275,000 to continue the public outreach campaign in 2005 and expand the education campaign to include new outreach to municipalities, institutions and businesses. Discussion of the Smartpower proposal touched on the credit Smartpower seems to be taking for the numbers of GreenUp customers obtained in RI. Smartpower will be requested to provide a proposal that outlines the scope of work more clearly.
- 3) USS Saratoga Foundation, K19 Russian Submarine PV Project – The Foundation received a bid by Solar Works for \$33,660. This project consists of installing a 1,200 watt ground mounted array grid interconnected, with battery backup photovoltaic system. The bid is expensive due to the complex nature of the project. The project requires permitting through CRMC, and has logistical impediments to the easy installation of conductor, conduit, and batteries by virtue of it being docked in the Providence River. The Advisory Board requested that Solar Works submit a lower quote for the project.
- 4) Southside Community Land Trust – The project sponsor is requesting \$5000 for a 1 kW PV system (\$5 per watt). The Board approved a grant in the amount of \$5000.
- 5) PV RFP – CSG/Sunpower submitted a prioritized list of the 7 proposals with response from the hosts to the Fund’s counterproposal. The Board voted for to require the following conditions for the grants:
  - a) The incentive paid by the Fund will be a maximum of \$6.65 per watt;
  - b) The annual payment cannot be lower than (discounted from) the displaced electricity charges resulting from the installation of the PV system;
  - c) There must be an up-front payment by the host of at least \$5000.
- 6) Save the Bay – The Advisory Board voted to approve the following for the monitoring system and display at the new Save the Bay facility at Field’s Point:
  - a) Cash grant of \$8838 for the display and kiosk; and
  - b) Heliotronics Bequeral and 3P Package and upgraded weather station, supplied through the Fund’s existing contract with Heliotronics (value of \$10,350).

- c) Total value of grant assistance is \$19,188.
- 7) PV Vocational Training – The Board approved the following in support of training for high school votech students and electricians:
  - a) \$3100 to CCRI to be a host training facility for licensed electricians in photovoltaic system design, installation, maintenance and troubleshooting consistent with the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners, and the Institute for Sustainable Power. CCRI was chosen through an RFP process through which two bids were received.
  - b) \$68,793 to SolarWrights to supply 6 – 1kW PV systems (with and without batteries) to 3 schools (2 systems per school). The purpose is to expose students studying the electrician curriculum to solar electric technology. The contract is being awarded through an RFP process through which only the SolarWrights bid was received.

Decisions:

- 1) Smartpower - has been requested to provide a proposal to the Fund for outreach and public education for the 2005 calendar year.
- 2) USS Saratoga Foundation, Juliet 484, K19 Russian Submarine PV Project – The Advisory Board is requesting that the contractor try to lower the quotation for the project.
- 3) Southside Community Land Trust – The Board approved a grant of \$5000 for the proposed PV project for this location.
- 4) CSG PV RFP Proposals – The Board voted to provide a counteroffer as follows:
  - a) The incentive paid by the Fund will be a maximum of \$6.65 per watt;
  - b) The annual payment cannot be lower than (discounted from) the displaced electricity charges resulting from the installation of the PV system;
  - c) There must be an up-front payment by the host of at least \$5000.
- 5) Save the Bay – The Board approved a cash grant of \$8838 for the monitor and display and to provide a data acquisition system from the current Heliotronics contract (value of \$10,350).
- 6) Votech PV Training – The Board approved a payment of \$3100 to CCRI to be a host facility for a training program for electricians. Approval was also given for a contract with SolarWrights for \$68,793 for the provision of 6 – 1 kW PV systems to be used for training at 3 votech high schools.

Actions:

- 1) Work with Smartpower to draft a proposal to the Fund for 2005.
- 2) Make a request to SolarWrights to lower the bid for the USS Saratoga Foundation.
- 3) Write a letter to Southside Community Land Trust informing them of approval of the PV grant.
- 4) Provide CSG with feedback on their proposals.
- 5) Write a letter to Save the Bay informing them of their grant.
- 6) Finalize contracts with CCRI and SolarWrights for the provision of services and hardware for electrician and votech training.
- 7) Set up subcommittee to work on Fund Policy.

Attendance:

Buck, Roger  
Capobiaco, Julie  
Edwards, Jonathan  
Grace, Bob  
Hill, Michael  
Jacobson, David  
Keane, Brian

Keller, Janet  
McClanaghan, Janice  
Pavlides, Lefteris  
Pelto, Jonathan  
Rose, Vin  
Rosoff, Lynn  
Schiller, Barry  
Selman, Nancy  
Stephens, Erich  
Teichert, Kurt  
Vild, Bruce  
Ward, Harold